

Trucking industry—Struck By Injuries

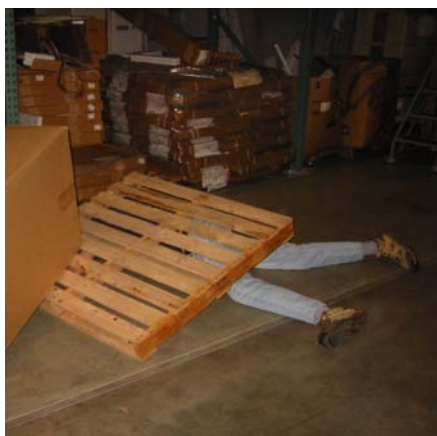
Between 2000 and 2004, 398 Washington trucking company workers were seriously injured from being struck by objects at work.



The injuries from these accidents were so serious, the workers had to take time off from work or in some cases were permanently disabled. These serious injuries are costly and affect your industrial insurance premiums. They contribute to the reason for the average base rate of \$2.44 per hour per employee paid by employers in the general trucking industry. A trucking company with five full-time employees with an average rate of injuries (claims) would pay approximately \$24,400 in premiums in 2006. If your company has a higher than average number of injuries, your “experience rating” could increase by 25% and your premiums would increase to \$3.04 per hour per employee. In a year, that would be an increase of \$6000 to \$30,400 for five full time employees.

Causes of struck by injuries

- Items falling from shelves, docks and other overhead structures striking workers
- Workers struck by vehicles or forklifts
- Improperly stacked items tipping over onto workers
- Workers walking into opening doors



Improper stacking and storage result in injuries

Ways to prevent struck by injuries

- Do not exceed maximum weights on shelves.
- Make sure that stacked materials are stable by not stacking too high and keep the heavier materials on the bottom.
- Make sure round and cylindrical items are secured to prevent movement.
- Operate powered industrial trucks safely - do not exceed safe speeds - travel with the forks lowered - always look in the direction of travel - do not disconnect audible warning - be aware of pedestrians - set parking brake, lower forks, turn off vehicle and chock wheels when unattended.
- Avoid walking in the paths of travel for all vehicles - if you must, look in both directions.
- Open doors slowly and use caution when in the path of a door.